

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 43-46, 48-52, 54, 61-64 and 66-72 are now pending in the application, with Claims 43, 49 and 61 being independent. Claims 1-42 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 43, 48, 49, 54, 61-64 and 66-72 have been amended herein.

Claims 61-64 and 66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, Claims 61-64, 66, 71 and 72 have been amended to be directed to a computer-readable medium storing a control program, as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 101 rejection are requested.

Claims 43-46, 48-52, 54, 61-64 and 66-72 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 10-322487 (Iwadate). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Iwadate is directed to an image processing apparatus, method and system that can output images in a plurality of modes. The same document can be printed once on an overhead projector (OHP) sheet for audience viewing and on ten normal sheets of paper as presentation hand-out materials. Referring to paragraph [0061] and Figures 6 and 9 of Iwadate, two print jobs can be performed in accordance with one print setting. In particular, paragraph [0061] states:

The job information 300 contains the number of jobs and detailed information of the jobs. The detailed information of the job has a format different from job type to job type. For example, the detail information is divided into a print job 301, a facsimile transmission job 302, and a file storage job 303. Job information produced with the output setting of Figs. 6 and 7 entered is represented by 400 and 401 of Fig. 10.

The foregoing description and Figures 9 and 10 of Iwadate show that the job information 300 indicates information of plural jobs divided by the job numbers, and job information 400 in Figure 10 indicates an example of job information comprised of plural jobs, namely job numbers 1 and 2, which are generated at the time of the output setting as shown in Figure 6. Accordingly, "job number 1" corresponding to a job for audience viewing at job information 400 is different from "job number 2" corresponding to a job for hand-out presentation materials. Accordingly, these two jobs cannot be considered "a single printing job."

Furthermore, referring to paragraph [0070] and Figure 12 of Iwadate, a process for performing plural jobs in accordance with the job information 300 discussed above is described. In Figure 12, plural jobs are processed and at step S128 (number of jobs - 1 = 0 ?) it is checked whether or not all of the jobs are completed every time a particular job is processed. That is, the jobs processed in accordance with Figure 12 are the plural jobs processed individually per job number. For example, when executing job information 400 in Figure 10 in accordance with the flowchart of Figure 12, two jobs, job number 1 and job number 2, are to be executed. Job number 1, which is a print job for audience viewing (such as sheet size (A4), sheet feeding method (manual), layout (same magnification), number of prints (1), and sort (OFF)), is first executed. After reducing to one remaining job at step S128, the process returns to step S121 where job number 2, which is a print job for hand-out presentation materials (such as sheet size (A4), sheet feeding method (cassette 1), layout (2-in-1), number of prints (10) and sort (stapling)), is executed. The number of remaining jobs calculated at step S128 then become zero and all the job processes end. Accordingly, Applicants submit that based on the described processes, job number 1 for audience viewing and job number 2 for hand-out presentation materials are executed separately as different jobs.

With the present invention, however, referring to Figure 5, for example, print job 504 is a single print job which is comprised of job initialization commands 501, job ending commands 503 and print data 502. Of course, the claims are not intended to be limited in scope to this preferred embodiment. When the printing job requests a plurality of output formats as in presentation mode, newly setting the control command to a group of job commands of the print job makes it possible to execute the plurality of output formats in a single print job. In this manner, by executing a single print job, a job from another user would not interrupt the complete print job, as can be the case when plural print jobs are executed as in Iwadate.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Iwadate does not disclose or suggest at least producing a single print job comprising a group of job commands and data to be printed, wherein the group of job commands includes a command for a plurality of output formats, and controlling execution such that printing for the plurality of output formats is executed in accordance with the single print job, as is recited in independent Claims 43, 49 and 61. Accordingly, Iwadate fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Thus, independent Claims 43, 49 and 61 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 43, 49 and 61. Dependent Claims 44-46, 48, 50-52, 54, 62-64 and 66-72 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Williamson', written over a horizontal line.

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